

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2063

BY: HAGER and BOYD of the
HOUSE

and

WILLIAMS (Don) of the
SENATE

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS; AMENDING 70 O.S. 1991, SECTIONS 5-107A, 5-110, 5-113, 5-113.1, 5-119 AND 9-105, WHICH RELATE TO SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS, WORKSHOPS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS, NEPOTISM AND PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION AREAS; CLARIFYING CERTAIN LANGUAGE; MODIFYING COMMENCEMENT OF TERMS; MODIFYING WORKSHOP REQUIREMENT FOR REELECTED MEMBERS; DELETING CERTAIN VACANCY REQUIREMENTS; PROHIBITING PERSONS WITHIN CERTAIN DEGREE OF RELATION TO MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION FROM BEING A CANDIDATE OR SERVING ON DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION; CHANGING DEGREE OF RELATION WHICH PROHIBITS PERSON FROM BEING A CANDIDATE OR SERVING; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; PROVIDING PENALTIES; CHANGING DEGREE OF RELATION WHICH PROHIBITS CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT; CLARIFYING WHO IS PROHIBITED FROM EMPLOYMENT; ESTABLISHING WHEN CERTAIN BOARD MEMBERS MAY VOTE ON CERTAIN CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS; ALLOWING SCHOOL BOARDS TO PROHIBIT MEMBERS INVOLVED IN LITIGATION AGAINST A SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM PARTICIPATING IN EXECUTIVE SESSIONS; SPECIFYING CERTAIN AGENDA ITEMS FOR CERTAIN MEETINGS OF DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION; PERMITTING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF CERTAIN STUDENTS; DIRECTING PROMULGATION OF RULES; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 5-107A, is amended to read as follows:

Section 5-107A. The following provisions and the provisions of Sections 13A-101 et seq. of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall govern the election of members of the board of education for a school district:

A. The number and term of each board of education shall be as follows:

District	Members	Term (Years)
Elementary	3	3
Independent		
1. districts having a five-member board		
on January 1, 1989	5	5

- 2. districts having a seven-member board ~~on January 1, 1989, or forming a seven-member board pursuant to Sections 7-101 and 7-105 of this title~~ 7 4
- 3. districts having a nine-member board ~~on January 1, 1989~~ unless an election is conducted pursuant to subsection C of this section 9 3

B. In all school districts, the members of the board of education shall be elected as follows:

- 1. a. Between August 1 and December 31 of the year following the submission by the United States Department of Commerce to the President of the United States of the official Federal Decennial Census, the board of education shall reapportion the territory of the school district into board districts. Beginning with the reapportionment following the 1990 Federal Decennial Census, all boundaries of board districts shall follow clearly visible, definable and observable physical boundaries which are based upon criteria established and recognized by the Bureau of the Census of the United States Department of Commerce for purposes of defining census blocks for its decennial census and shall follow, as much as is possible, precinct boundaries. Board districts shall be compact, contiguous and shall be as equal in population as practical with not more than a ten percent (10%) variance between the most populous and least populous board districts.
- b. School districts having fewer than one thousand (1,000) students in average daily membership during the preceding school year may choose not to establish board districts and may nominate and elect all board members at large.
- c. Elementary school districts shall have board members elected at large.
- d. A city located in an independent school district having four or more wards and an outlying area with such outlying area comprising no more than twenty percent (20%) of the population of such independent school district, then such independent school district may adopt such wards and outlying area in lieu of the board districts provided for in subparagraph a of this paragraph, and at least one member of the board of education of such independent school district shall be a member of each ward; and

2. One member of the board of education shall be elected by the electors of the school district to represent each such board district. Provided, however, that in any school district where the electors of each board district, rather than the electors of the entire school district, elect board members to represent that board district, that district shall elect board members in that manner.

If during the term of office to which a person was elected, that member ceases to be a resident of the board district for which the person was elected, the office shall become vacant and such vacancy shall be filled as provided in Section 13A-110 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes; provided, if the member still resides within the school district to which board that person was elected, the office shall not become vacant and the member may serve the remainder of the term to which the person was elected; and

3. In a school ~~districts~~ district having more than ten thousand (10,000) children in average daily membership, the following provision and the provisions of ~~Sections~~ Section 13A-101 et seq. of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall control as to election of the members of the school district's board of education:

- a. There shall be held a nomination election in which the electors of each board district in which a term is expiring or in which a vacancy exists shall select two (2) nominees from among the candidates for board member to represent the board district,
- b. If, in the nominating election, one candidate has a majority of all votes cast, then a general election is not required. If no candidate receives a majority of all votes cast, then the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall become the nominees for the board district in the general election, and
- c. At the general election, all of the electors of the board district shall select one of the two nominees as the member of the board of education representing the board district.

C. Until January 1, 1993, any nine-member board shall have the option of reducing its board to a seven- or five-member board after approval of a board resolution or a vote of the electors of the school district to take such action pursuant to Section 13A-109 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes. If the question is put before the voters of the district, such election shall be held along with and at the same time and place as the next school election if all requirements of ~~Sections~~ Section 13A-101 et seq. of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes for such election are met.

After such resolution or election, the board shall reapportion the district, determining by resolution or by lot which board member offices shall be abolished at the end of the current board member's term and which shall become one of the offices of the new board.

Election of the resulting board members shall be carried out according to procedures stated in this section and ~~Sections~~ Section 13A-101 et seq. of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

School board members currently serving in offices abolished pursuant to this subsection shall continue serving until the end of their current terms as at-large members.

D. The offices of members of the board of education shall be designated by consecutive numbers and shall correspond with board districts when applicable.

E. The Except for those members elected prior to July 1, 1992, the terms of office of the members of a five-member board of education shall commence on the first Monday in July of the year indicated regular, special or emergency school board meeting after the member has been certified as elected:

Office No. 1	1991
Office No. 2	1992
Office No. 3	1993
Office No. 4	1994
Office No. 5	1995

The terms of office of the members of a seven-member board of education shall be staggered, with one member being elected in 1991, two members being elected in 1992, two members being elected in 1993 and two members being elected in 1994 and shall commence on the first regular meeting in July, special or emergency school board meeting after the member has been certified as elected; provided, in districts needing to elect two members in 1991 to maintain a full complement of board members, two members shall be elected in 1991, one for a full term and one for a one-year term, as determined by the local board. If a seven-member board is formed upon consolidation pursuant to Section 7-105 of this title, or upon annexation pursuant to Section 7-101 of this title, the formation agreement shall specify initial short terms as necessary to extend until the beginning of the regular terms for seven-member boards established herein.

The terms of office of the members of a nine-member board of education shall be staggered, with three members being elected in 1991, three members being elected in 1992 and three members being elected in 1993, and shall commence on the first regular meeting in July, special or emergency school board meeting after the member has been certified as elected. Upon reduction of a nine-member board pursuant to subsection C of this section, the terms of the five-member or seven-member board shall be staggered pursuant to this subsection.

One member of a three-member board of education shall be elected each year, and the terms of office shall commence on the first regular meeting in July, special or emergency school board meeting after the member has been certified as elected.

F. The term of office of each board member elected after ~~May 31, 1990~~ July 1, 1992, shall commence on the first regular meeting in July following the election of the member, special or emergency school board meeting after the member has been certified as elected. Board members elected prior to ~~June 1, 1990~~ July 1, 1992, may remain in office until their successor is elected and seated pursuant to Sections 13A-101 through 13A-111 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The remaining term of any member who completes the term for which the member was elected but not wishing to serve until the successor of the member takes office on the first regular meeting in July following the election of the successor, special or emergency school board meeting after the successor has been certified as elected, shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the board of education.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 5-110, is amended to read as follows:

Section 5-110. A. ~~At~~ Except as provided in subsection B of this section, at the time a school district elector files a notification and declaration of candidacy for the office of district board of education membership, such elector shall agree and pledge in writing that, upon election or appointment as a member of the district board of education, such member will attend a two-day workshop to be held within the state by the State Department of Education, or upon approval of the State Board of Education, by any organization or association representing district boards of education in this state for study and instruction on the subjects of school finance, the Oklahoma School Code and related laws, and the ethics, duties and responsibilities of district board of education members.

B. When an incumbent of a district board of education files a notification and declaration of candidacy for reelection to the district board of education, the member shall not be required to

comply with the provisions of subsection A of this section if the member produces a certificate of completion showing that the member has completed the workshop required in subsection A of this section. The member shall be required to agree and pledge in writing that upon reelection the member will attend a six-hour workshop within thirteen (13) months following his or her election emphasizing changes in school law, particularly changes in the areas set forth in subsection A of this section.

C. The State Department of Education shall, immediately after the annual elections of various district board of education members, determine the members of the district boards of education pledged to attend the workshop established by ~~subsection~~ subsections A and B of this section, and shall notify such members of the time and place such workshop is to be conducted. Upon completion of the workshop, the certificate of completion shall be included in the public records of the school board's minutes. Each school board member, except for an incumbent member, shall be required within thirteen (13) months following or preceding his or her election to complete the workshop established by subsection A of this section or to attend twenty (20) hours of other state workshops conducted as instruction on the subjects of school finance, the Oklahoma School Code and related laws, and the ethics, duties and responsibilities of district board of education members. If a member has not satisfied the above workshop requirements within thirteen (13) months of his or her election, the local board of education shall declare the seat of such member vacant and fill the vacancy according to law. ~~However, until November 1, 1990, no seat shall be declared vacant due to this requirement for any school board member who has attended the workshops required by this section and who has received certificates of completion for such workshops but who only received partial credit for the workshops and was not notified of the fact that only partial credit was issued until after the thirteen-month period had expired.~~ All government departments, agencies and institutions of this state are directed to lend such assistance as may be required by the State Department of Education for the proper conduct and administration of the workshops. The State Department of Education shall maintain a permanent record of each district board of education member who successfully completes a workshop and shall issue a certificate of completion to such member.

~~C.~~ D. The State Department of Education and, upon approval of the State Board of Education, any organization or association representing district boards of education in this state are authorized to charge persons pledged to attend the workshop a registration fee sufficient to defray the estimated costs of presenting the workshop or Thirty-five Dollars (\$35.00) per registrant, whichever is the lesser amount, and to collect such fees at the time of registration.

~~D.~~ E. Any member of a district board of education or any individual elected, certified as the elected member by the county election board, but not sworn in and seated as a member of a district board of education at the time of a workshop who attends and successfully completes a workshop as required by subsection A or B of this section shall be reimbursed by the school district for expenses incurred, not to exceed compensation in the sum of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) per day and actual expenses which are itemized and documented for lodging, meals, registration fees and transportation to and from the place of the workshop, as provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 5-113, is amended to read as follows:

Section 5-113. No person shall be eligible to be a candidate for or serve on a board of education if he or she is currently employed by the school district governed by that board of education or is related within the ~~third~~ second degree by affinity or consanguinity to any other member of the board of education ~~to which such ineligible person is elected or appointed or to any employee of the school district governed by the board of education,~~ it being the purpose of this section both to prohibit persons who are related within the ~~third~~ second degree by affinity or consanguinity from serving simultaneously on the same board of education of any school district of this state and to prohibit persons who are related within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity to an employee of a school district from serving on the board of education governing the school district while such relative is employed. These prohibitions shall not apply to prevent members of boards of education who are serving on September 1, 1992, from serving the term for which they were elected or from serving successive terms for which they may be elected.

Any member of a board of education who violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to the penalties prescribed by Sections 485 and 486 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 5-113.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 5-113.1. A. Except as otherwise provided herein, no ~~teacher or other employee of any school district person~~ may be employed or put under contract by a school district if that ~~teacher or employee person~~ is related to a member of the board of education of that school district within the ~~third~~ second degree of consanguinity or affinity; provided, a teacher or employee already under contract to or otherwise employed by the school district at the time a member of the board of education to whom such teacher or employee is so related ~~assumes office~~ is elected or serving shall be eligible to continue the employment; provided further, a teacher or employee already under contract to or otherwise employed by the school district or a board member already serving at the time the relationship is established may continue in said employment or service. No member of the board of education who has resigned from the board before his or her term has expired may be reappointed to the board to complete the remainder of his or her term if a teacher or employee related to the resigned member of the board within the ~~third~~ second degree of consanguinity or affinity was put under contract or otherwise employed by the school district after the board member resigned. The State Board of Education may exempt a ~~teacher or other employee of a school district person~~ from the provisions of this subsection upon written request from ~~a~~ that person or the local board of education.

No member of a board of education who is related to a teacher or other employee of the district within the ~~third~~ second degree of consanguinity or affinity shall attend or participate in any regular or executive session of the board held to consider any personnel matter or litigation relating to said teacher or employee; provided however, the member may vote on collective bargaining agreements or the renewal of contracts as a group if the vote is necessary to form a quorum of the board of education members. If more than one member of the board of education is related to a teacher or employee, only the minimum number of those members which is necessary to form a quorum shall be allowed to vote. Each board of education shall adopt a written policy establishing procedures on when such a member may vote on the renewal of contracts or collective bargaining

agreements. Nothing herein shall be construed to make any person ineligible to become a candidate for the board of education.

B. Any member of a board of education who violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to the penalties prescribed by Sections 485 and 486 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-113.2 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Any school board member who, before serving or while serving on the board of education, initiated litigation against the school district, school board of education, or an individual board member of the board of education on which he/she serves, or who is a governing member of a group, organization, or entity that has authorized and initiated litigation against that school district, school board of education, or an individual board member of the board of education on which he/she serves, may be excluded upon a majority vote of the board members from any executive session where the litigation is discussed or from any other form of participation in the board's defense of the litigation, including any vote on issues related to that legal action.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 5-119, is amended to read as follows:

Section 5-119. A. The board of education of each school district shall elect from its membership at the first regular, special or emergency meeting after following the annual school election and certification of election of new members, a president and vice president, each of whom shall serve for a term of one (1) year and until a successor is elected and qualified. The board shall also elect a clerk and, in its discretion, a deputy clerk, either of whom may be one of the members of the board, and each of whom shall hold office during the pleasure of the board and each of whom shall receive such compensation for services as the board may allow. If the board elects a board clerk who is not one of the members of the board, the board clerk may also be employed as the encumbrance clerk and minute clerk. Provided, no superintendent, principal, treasurer or assistant treasurer, instructor, or teacher employed by such board shall be elected or serve as clerk or deputy clerk of the board nor as encumbrance clerk or minute clerk except that a treasurer or assistant treasurer may serve as a minute clerk. No board member shall serve as encumbrance clerk or minute clerk. The deputy clerk may perform any of the duties and exercise any of the powers of the clerk with the same force and effect as if the same were done or performed by the clerk. Before entering upon the discharge of the duties of the deputy clerk, the deputy clerk shall give a bond in a sum of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) with good and sufficient sureties to be approved by the board conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of the deputy clerk.

B. The board of education shall employ an encumbrance clerk and minute clerk, both functions of which may be performed by the same employee. The encumbrance clerk shall keep the books and documents of the school district and perform such other duties as the board of education or its committees may require. The minute clerk shall keep an accurate journal of the proceedings of the board of education and perform such other duties as the board of education or its committees may require. The board of education may designate a deputy minute clerk. The deputy minute clerk may perform any of the duties and exercise any of the powers of the minute clerk with the same force and effect as if the same were done or performed by the

minute clerk. Before entering upon the discharge of the duties of the deputy minute clerk, the deputy minute clerk shall give a bond in a sum of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) with good and sufficient sureties to be approved by the board conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of the deputy minute clerk. Before entering upon the discharge of their duties, the encumbrance clerk and minute clerk shall each give a bond in a sum of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) with good and sufficient sureties to be approved by the board conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties. If both functions are performed by the same person only one bond in a sum of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) shall be required.

SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 9-105, is amended to read as follows:

Section 9-105. A. It is hereby made the duty of the The State Board of Education ~~to shall~~ determine and fix definite boundaries of the area in which each school district shall provide transportation for each school. When an elementary school district is surrounded by ~~another~~ an independent school district, that the independent school district must be designated as the transportation area for the high school students in the elementary school district.

B. The State Board of Education is also authorized to establish definite routes in each transportation area, and it shall be the further duty of said Board to make rules and regulations as to the manner in which said area and routes may be established or changed. State Except as otherwise provided in this section, state funds payable to a district shall be withheld for a failure or refusal to confine its transportation to the area and routes designated by the State Board of Education or to comply with the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. Provided that state State funds payable to a school district shall not be withheld where, in the following circumstances:

1. When, based upon the mutual agreement of the two participating school districts, a school district offering special education classes extends its transportation program to include the transportation of students qualifying for special education in an adjacent school district which does not offer special education classes, for the purpose of offering its special education classes to said students. ~~The State Board of Education shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to allow said transportation of special education students to an adjacent school district.; or~~

2. When, by resolutions of the boards of education of two participating districts, the districts agree that one or both of the districts may extend its transportation program into the other participating district to provide transportation for students who reside in such other participating district and who, by agreement of the participating districts, are, or will be, attending school in the district that has agreed to furnish transportation for the students.

C. The State Board shall promulgate rules as are necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 8. Sections 3 and 4 of this act shall become effective September 1, 1992.

SECTION 9. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 15th day of May, 1992.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 18th day of May, 1992.

President of the Senate